

## **Discussion of SB 5 and Proposed Revision to Preconditions**

### **October 2013**

#### **Overview**

This agenda item presents proposed language for Program Precondition 1 to reflect changes in state law as a result of the passage of SB 5 (Chapter 171, Statutes of 2013)).

#### **Background**

For many years, California's preliminary, post baccalaureate general education student teaching professional educator preparation programs were prohibited by Education Code Section 44259 from being no more than 1/5 of a 5 year program. The Blue Ribbon panel that produced the *Greatness by Design* report in 2012 recommended that the "unit cap" as it was known, be removed. It was argued that the one year cap on traditional student teaching preparation programs unnecessarily limited the content that could be covered and became unfeasible as expectations and requirements were added over the years to address current needs in public education in California.

Likewise, the Teacher Preparation Advisory (TAP) Panel, convened by the Commission also recommended removal of the unit cap. The TAP recommendation stated,

#### **Removal of One-Year Limit**

4. The Commission should work with the legislature to remove the one year limit that restricts the length of preliminary, post baccalaureate, student teaching preparation programs for Multiple and Single Subject Credentials.

On August 27, 2013, Governor Brown signed SB 5 (Chapter 171, Statutes of 2013). The text of this bill is included as an appendix to this agenda item. This new law changes the duration of the program of professional preparation to include not more than 2 years of full-time study of professional preparation. The effective date of the measure is January 1, 2014.

This change in law necessitates that the Commission's General Precondition related to Program Length also be changed. While the change in preconditions is the purview of the Commission, feedback by the COA would be helpful in determining the exact language that should be proposed to the Commission. Preconditions are matters of statute or Commission policy that institutions must meet. Institutions provide preconditions documents at initial institutional approval and prior to each accreditation site visit. Preconditions are compliance oriented and, therefore, are reviewed by Commission staff, rather than by members of the Board of Institutional Review.

Commission staff seeks feedback from the COA on the proposed revisions to the Program Preconditions. The preconditions are scheduled to go before the Commission at its December meeting for consideration and possible adoption.

### **Proposed Revised Language for Precondition 1 – Limitation on Program Length**

Each program of professional preparation that leads to the issuance of Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credentials shall adhere continually to the following requirements of California State law or Commission Policy.

- (1) **Limitation on Program Length.** The professional preparation coursework that all candidates are required to complete ~~prior to or during a professional preparation program~~ shall be equivalent to no more than ~~one year~~ two years of full-time study at the institution.

The limitation applies to postgraduate teacher preparation programs. The limitation does not apply to blended/integrated programs of subject matter preparation and professional preparation teaching internship programs. *Reference: Education Code Section 44259 (a) and (b) (3).*

#### **Clarification of Program Precondition 1**

~~Professional Preparation Courses. Program Precondition 1 applies only to “professional preparation” courses, which are defined to consist of three kinds of courses: (1) student teaching and other field experience courses in which candidates learn professional practices and teaching strategies under the direction and supervision of an experienced practitioner; (2) methods courses in which candidates study and practice ways of teaching classes and organizing curricula in elementary or secondary schools; and (3) courses in which candidates study concepts, information and/or principles that are presented as bases for effective school practices, and that are presented especially for candidates to learn as prospective teachers.~~

~~Prerequisite Courses. Program Precondition 1 does not apply to prerequisite courses that meet all of the following conditions: (1) are necessary in order that a candidate may benefit from professional preparation; (2) do not fall within the definition of “professional preparation” shown above; and (3) are open to enrollment by all students (i.e., not limited to credential candidates). An institution must provide opportunities for candidates to establish equivalency to any prerequisite course.~~

~~Individually Prescribed Courses. Program Precondition 1 does not apply to courses that are required of a candidate based on an individualized assessment of knowledge and skills required to meet the Commission’s Standards of Candidate Competence and Performance. These courses would be prescribed when a candidate is unable to meet the candidate performance standards by completing the regular professional preparation program.~~

~~Elective Courses. Program Precondition 1 does not apply to courses that are elected by candidates and are not required by the college or university prior to student teaching or as part of the one year of professional preparation. Program Precondition 1 applies to courses that are selected by candidates from a required list of courses.~~